Opposing Forces (OPFOR) in the Contemporary Operational Environment (COE)

OUTLINE

- OPFOR Design
- New Terms
- Objectives
- Organization & Structure
- Battlefield Framework
- Composition
- Types of Offensive Action
- Types of Defensive Action
- Fire Support
- Maneuver Operations
- Summary of Differences
- Keys to Defeating COE OPFOR

UNCLASSIFIED

FM 7-100 OPFOR Doctrinal Framework and Strategy
FM 7-100.1 OPFOR Operations
FM 7-100.2 OPFOR Tactics

The Bottom Line

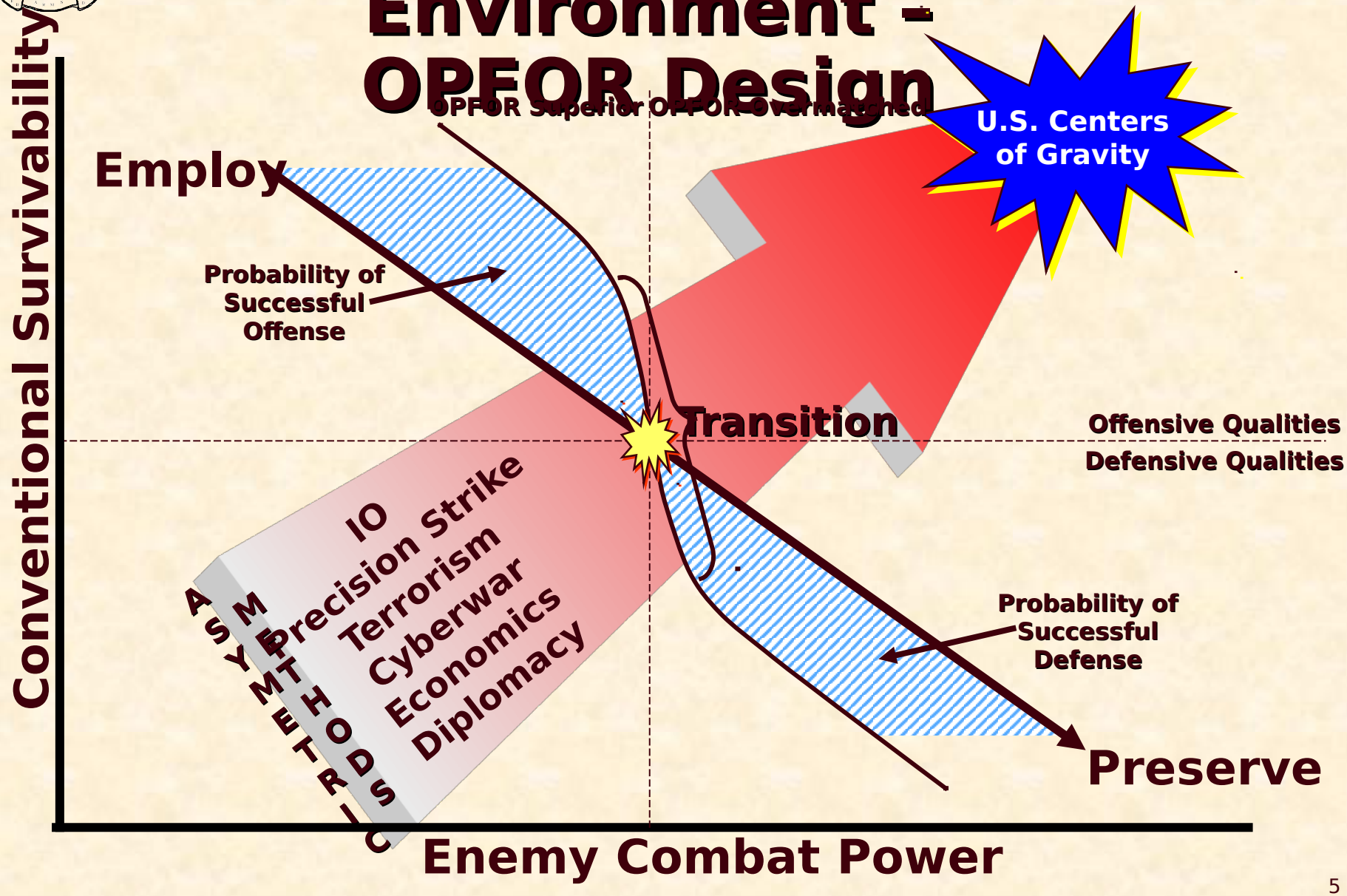
COE OPFOR Emulates the Real World Threat

“Dirt” CTCs (NTC, JRTC, CMTC) in Transition to COE
First NTC COE Rotation begins on 2 May 02

No “Dirt” CTC TTPs Yet, but there will be No Artillery Groupings Such As DAG and RAG; Systems will be More Dispersed and Operate as Batteries or Single Systems.

Simulation CTC (BCTP)
Already Using COE

Operational Environment – OPFOR Design



Asymmetric Operations

Deep SPF Ops
HUMINT

PSYOP /
Perception
Management

Terrorists

WMD/
Chemical
Attacks

Information
Warfare

Dislocated
Civilians /
Refugees

Deception

Attacks on US
Home Country

Attacks on
Civilian supporting
Structure

Strategic Strike for
Operational &
Tactical Impact

ADAPTATION – OPFOR OPERATIONAL PATTERNS

Conventional Operations

- Primarily used against regional neighbors
- Seeks strategic military decision

Transition Operations

- Used to control tempo
- Combination of operational and tactical offensive and defensive action

Adaptive Operations

- Used to preserve conventional power
- Is combined with attacks on enemy strategic COG

OPFOR OBJECTIVES

- Destroy Key Systems
- Eliminate Resolve; Cause Politically Unacceptable Casualties
- Render Enemy Combat Power *Irrelevant* (Isolated from Decisive Action by Destroying Combat Multipliers, Logistical Capacity, Enablers, and Shapers)
- Preserve Own Combat Power

**OPFOR Will NOT:

Focus on destruction of enemy maneuver
Try to overwhelm with echelons
Attack from the march to a timetable
Rely on use of massed artillery

New OPFOR Terms

"The State"

OPFOR Tactical Organizations

- Operational-Strategic Command (OSC) *(replaces Army/Corps)*
- Division Tactical Group (DTG)
- Brigade Tactical Group (BTG)
- Independent Mission Detachment (IMD)

OPFOR Battlefield Framework

- Disruption Zone *(replaces Security Zone)*
- Battle Zone *(replaces Main Battle Area)*
- Support Zone *(replaces Rear Area)*
- Limit of Responsibility

OPFOR ORGANIZATIONS

One Example

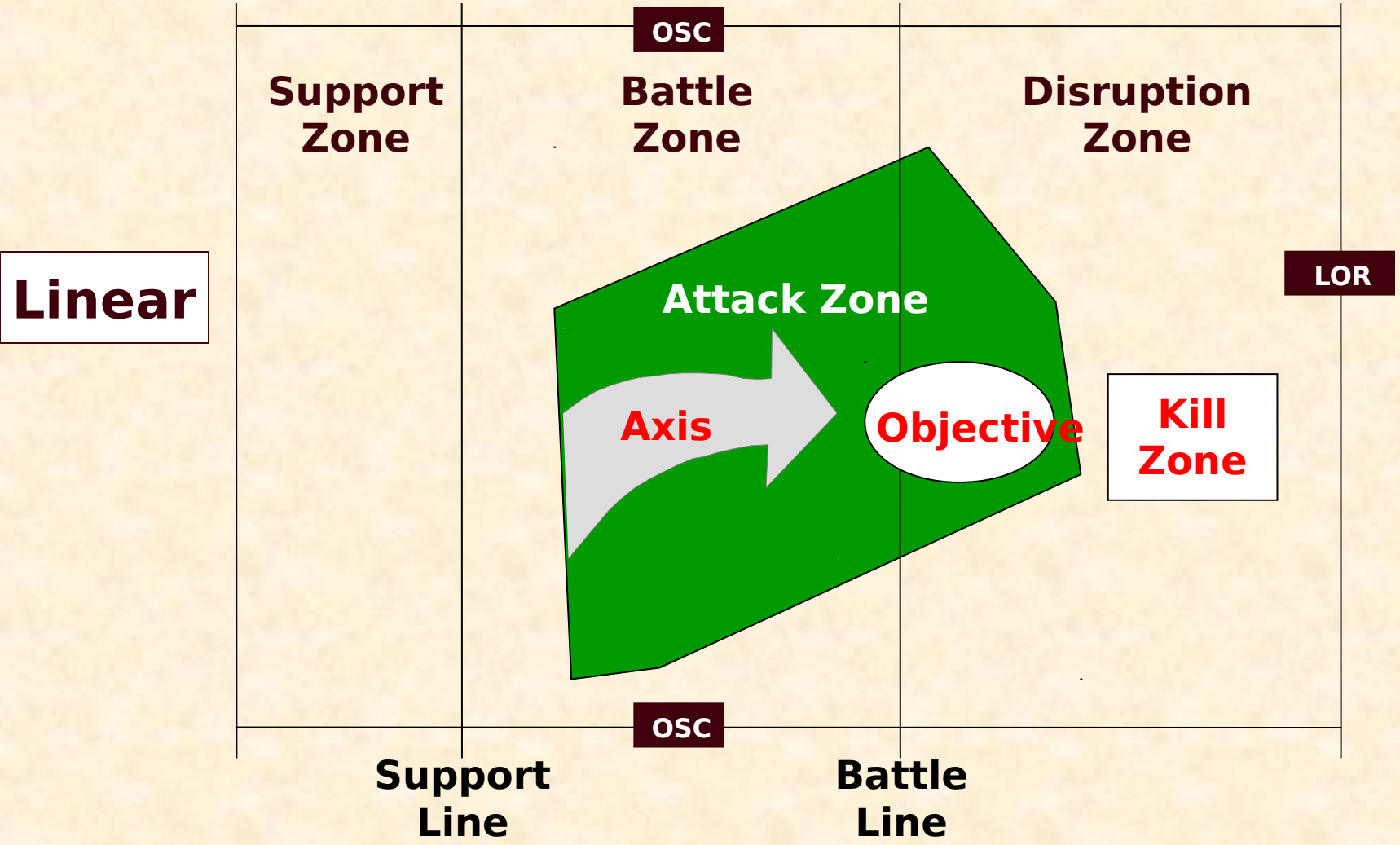
Organization dependant on mission requireme

OPFOR ORGANIZATIONS

OPFOR DETACHMENTS: **A BTG, brigade, battalion or company designated to perform a specific, independent mission and task organized to do so.**

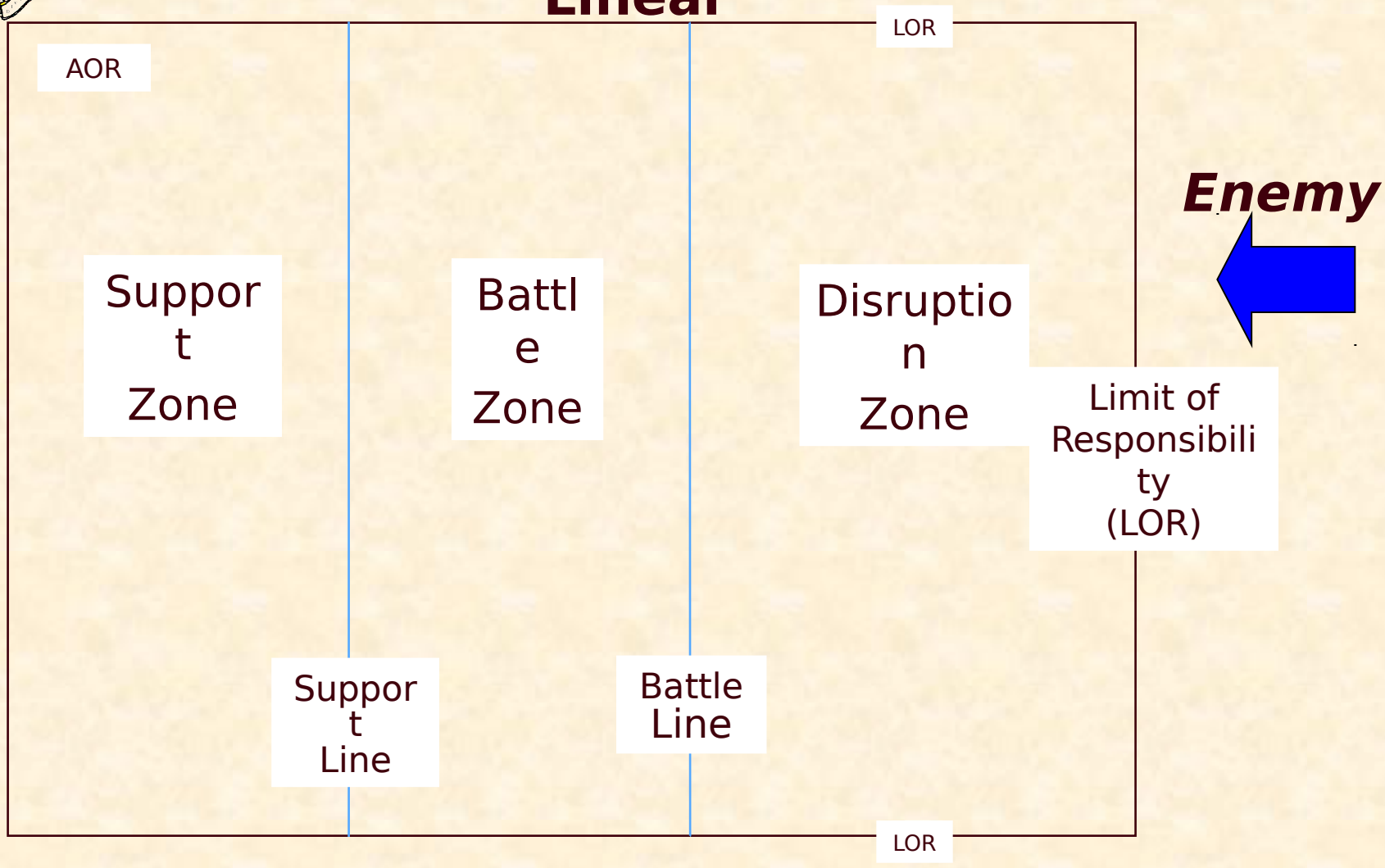
- **Independent Mission Detachment (IMD)**
  - **Seizing key terrain**
  - **Linking up with air- or heliborne forces**
  - **Conducting tactical movement on secondary axes**
  - **Pursuing or enveloping an enemy force**
  - **Conducting raids and ambushes**
- **Counter-reconnaissance Detachment (CRD)**
- **Urban Detachment (UD)**
- **Security Detachment (SD)**
- **Reconnaissance Detachment (RD)**
- **Movement Support Detachment (MSD)**

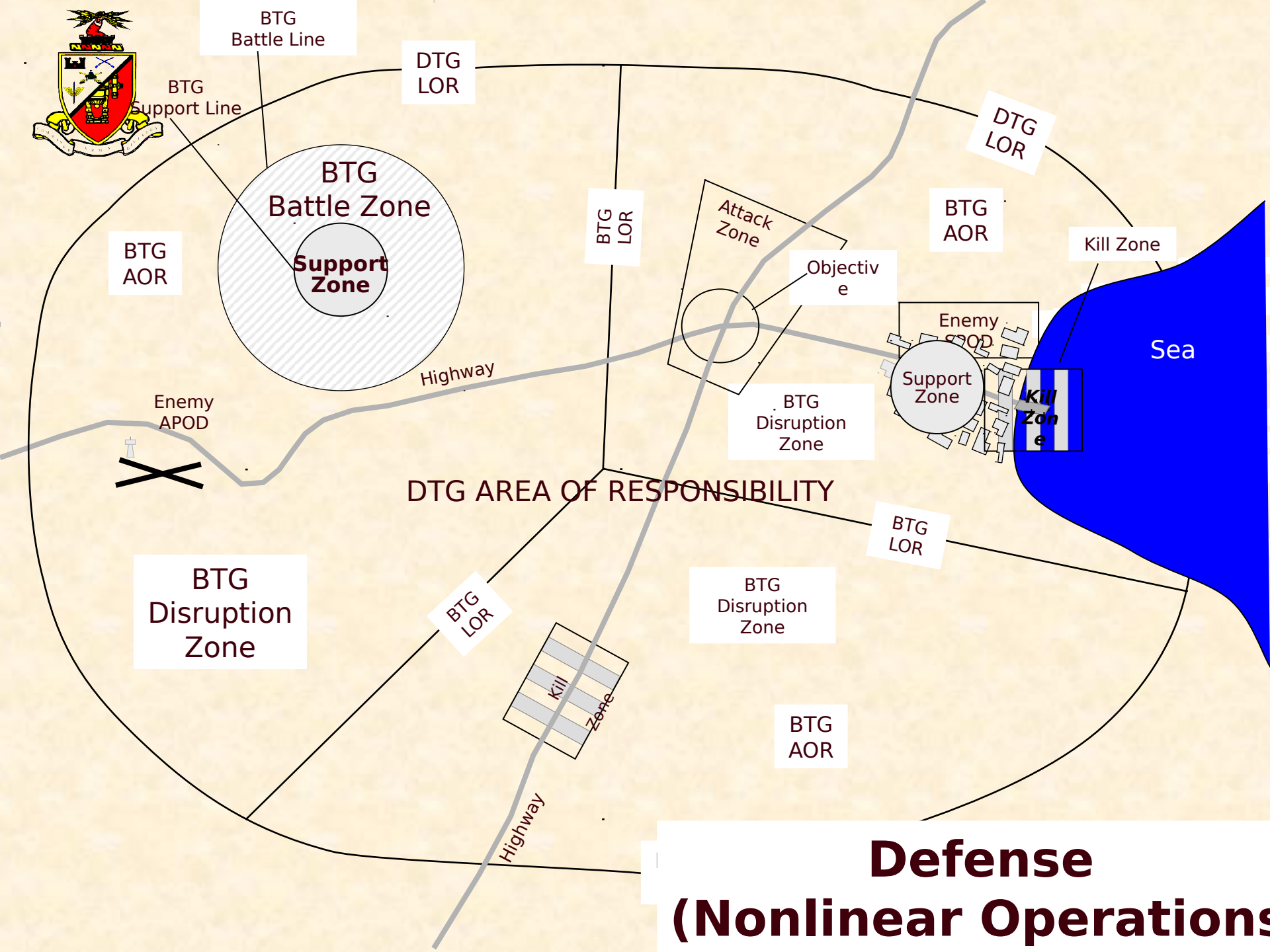
COE Battlefield Framework



Defensive Operations

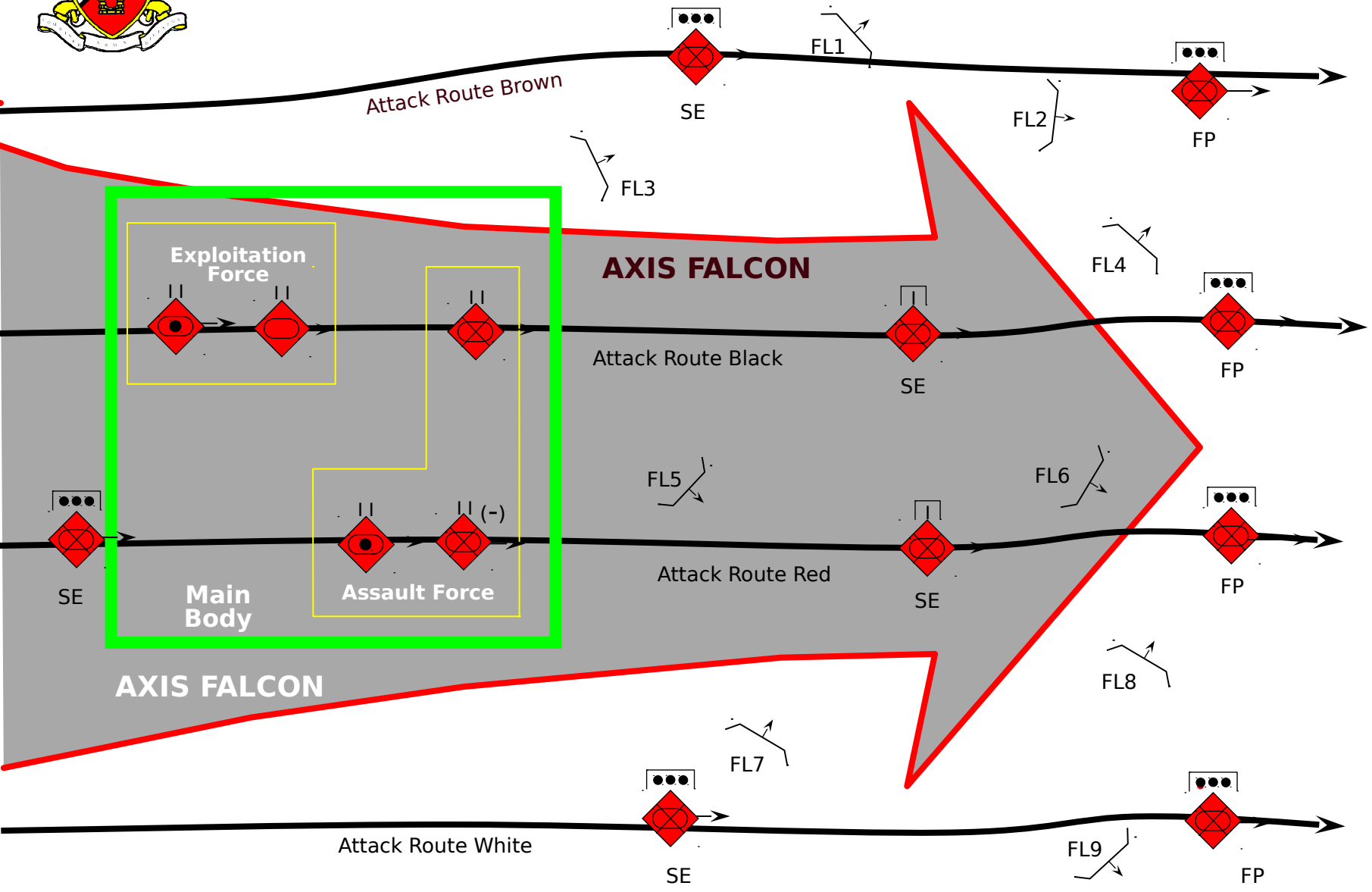
Linear



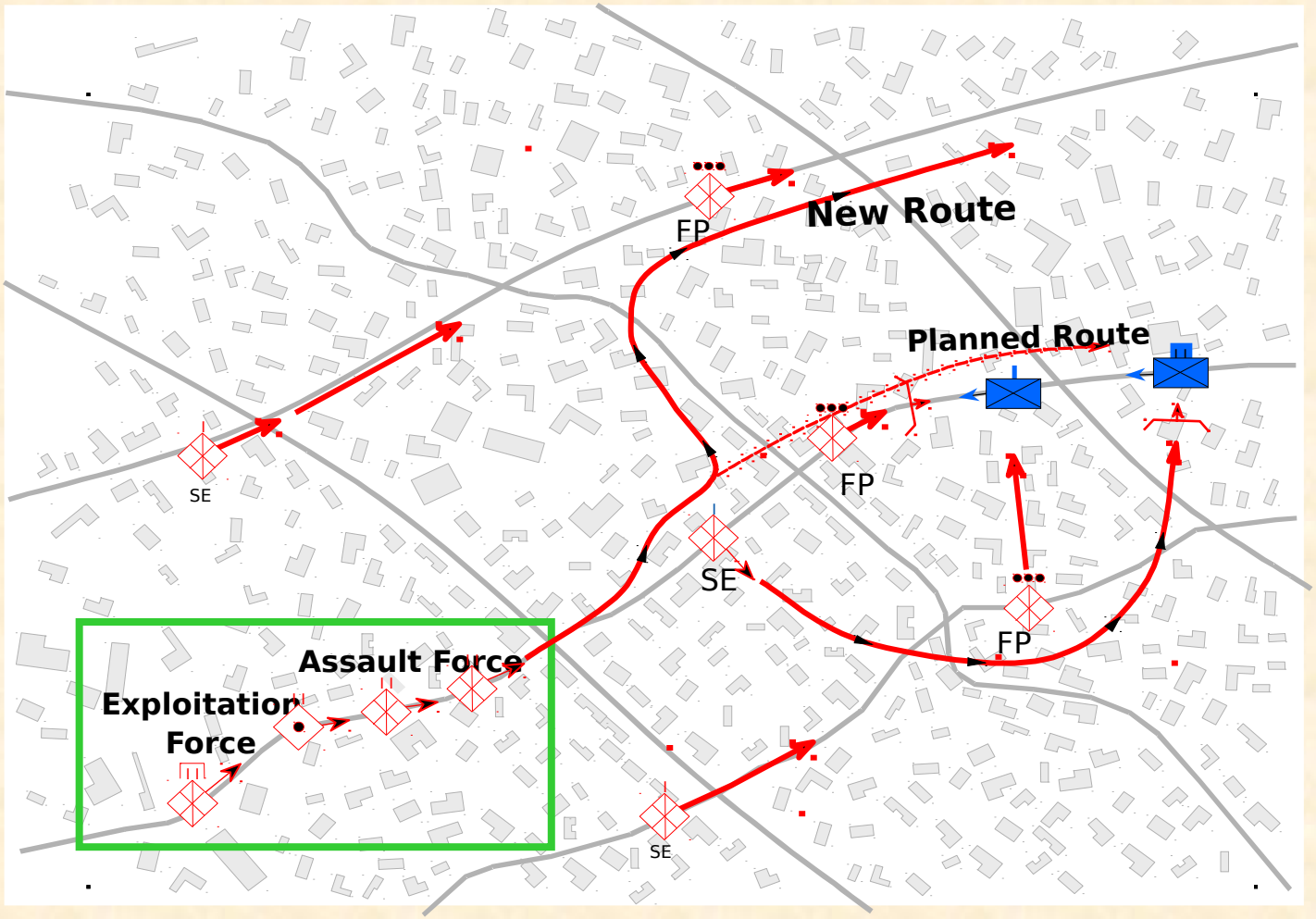


Defense
(Nonlinear Operations

COE OPFOR


Attack Route Brown
SE
FL1
FL2
FP
FL3
Exploitation Force
AXIS FALCON
FL4
Attack Route Black
SE
FP
FL5
FL6
SE
Main Body
Assault Force
(-)
Attack Route Red
SE
FP
AXIS FALCON
FL8
FL7
Attack Route White
SE
FL9
FP

Transition From Tactical Movement



A Better Equipped OPFOR

- Not Limited to Russia, the PRC or North Korea
- If it is “Fielded” in Any Country in the World or Available for Export, OPFOR Can Use it.
- *Tailored to Meet BLUFOR Training Requirements*

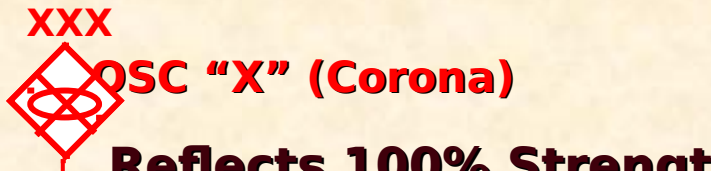
Catalog Shopping

"This is the J.C. Penney OPFOR!"

COL Pat Ne
G2, III Corp
June 2001

COE COMPOSITION

EXAMPLE FROM 4TH ID WFX, 2001



XX

187 X T-90
317 X BMP-3
159 X BTR-80A
72 X 2S1
54 X G6
18 X PRIMA
54 X 2S23
36 X KORNET-E
18 X AT-5B
30 X 2A45M
27 X AMX-10 HOT
12 X 9P149 w/ AT-9
24 X 2S6M
24 X CROTALE
16 X SA-15
18 X GEPARD
348 X SA-18
81 X AT-13
27 X RPG-29
27 X Eryx
351 X RPO-A
8 X SHMEL-1 RPV

XX

135 X W-87
54 X RT-61
54 X D-30
54 X 2A65
18 X PRIMA
72 X 2A45M
54 X KORNET-E
81 X AMX-10 HOT
16 X Skyguard AD Firing Units
18 X CROTALE
320 X SA-18
81 X AT-13
81 X Eryx
180 X RPO-A
18 X SA-13

IFC

XX

72 X G-5
72 X 2A65
60 X 2A36
32 X 9A52
36 9P140
6 X SS-1
6 X SS-21
8 X AT2 FOX RPV

X

45 X W-87
18 X RT-61
18 X D-30
12 X 2A45M
18 X KORNET-E
18 X AMX-10 HOT
4 X Skyguard AD Firing Units
76 X SA-18
27 X AT-13
27 X Eryx
60 X RPO-A
6 X SA-13

X

93 X T-90
93 X BMP-3
18 X AT-13
18 X G6
12 X 2S23
12 X KORNET-E
6 X 2S6M
6 X CROTALE
8 X SA-15
58 X SA-18

X

Maneuver: *277 TK/ 692 IFV/ 581 AT*

277	x	T-90
407	x	BMP-3
159	x	BTR-80
120	x	AT-14 KORNET-E
207	x	AT-13
126	x	AMX-10 HOT
18	x	AT-5B
114	x	2A45M
12	x	9P149 w/ AT-9

Artillery: *420 Tube/ 104 MRL*

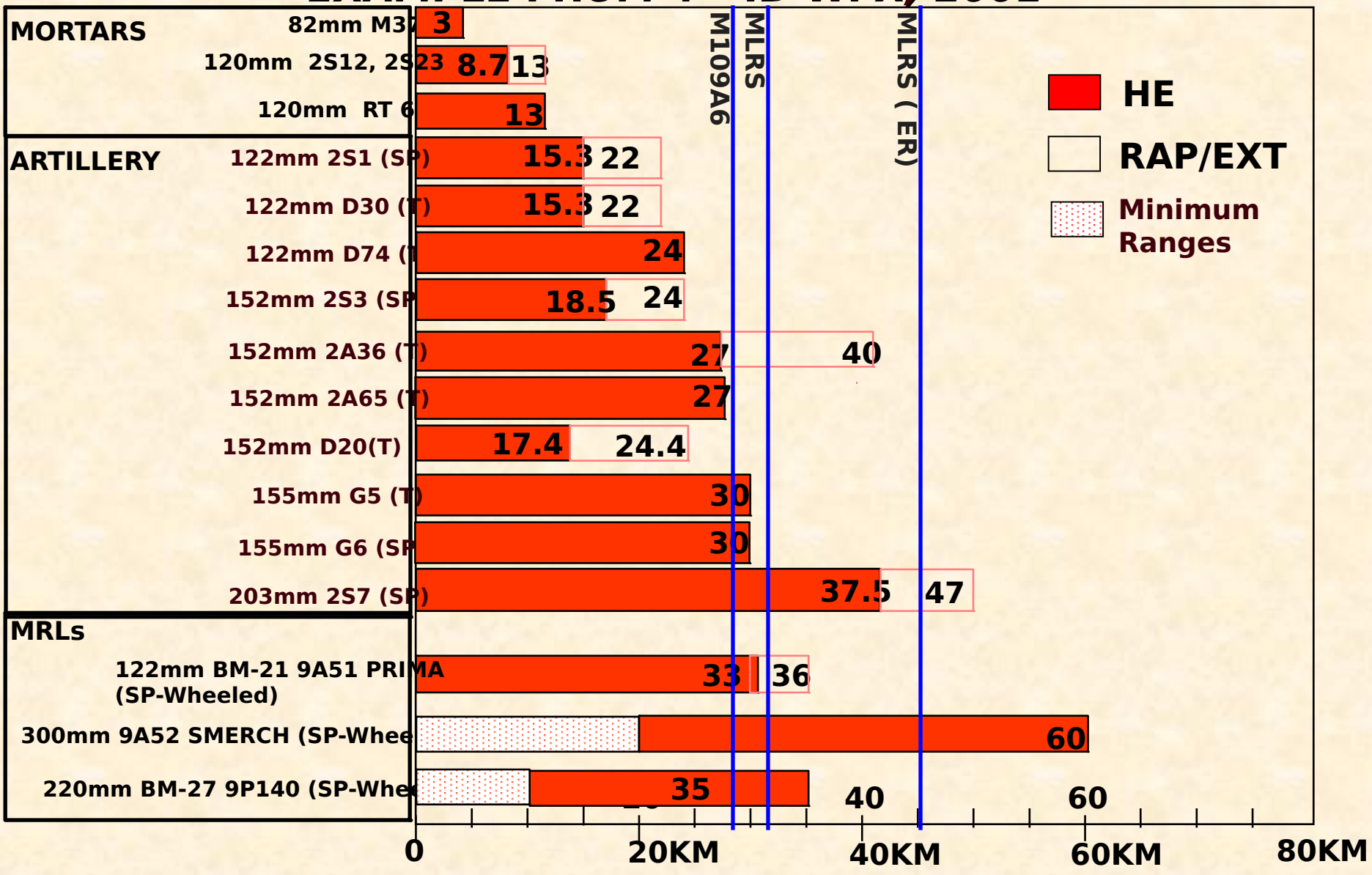
72	x	G5
72	x	G6
126	x	2A65
60	x	2A36
72	x	2S1
18	x	D-30
36	x	PRIMA (BM-21)
32	x	9A52
36	x	9P140

ADA:

30	x	2S6M
24	x	SA-15
48	x	CROTALE
24	x	SA-13
802	x	SA-18
48	x	GEPARD SPAAG

OPFOR ARTILLERY RANGES

EXAMPLE FROM 4TH ID WFX, 2001



OPFOR
Types of
Offensive Action

Offensive Forces

- ***Fixing Force***
- ***Assault Force***
- ***Exploitation Force***

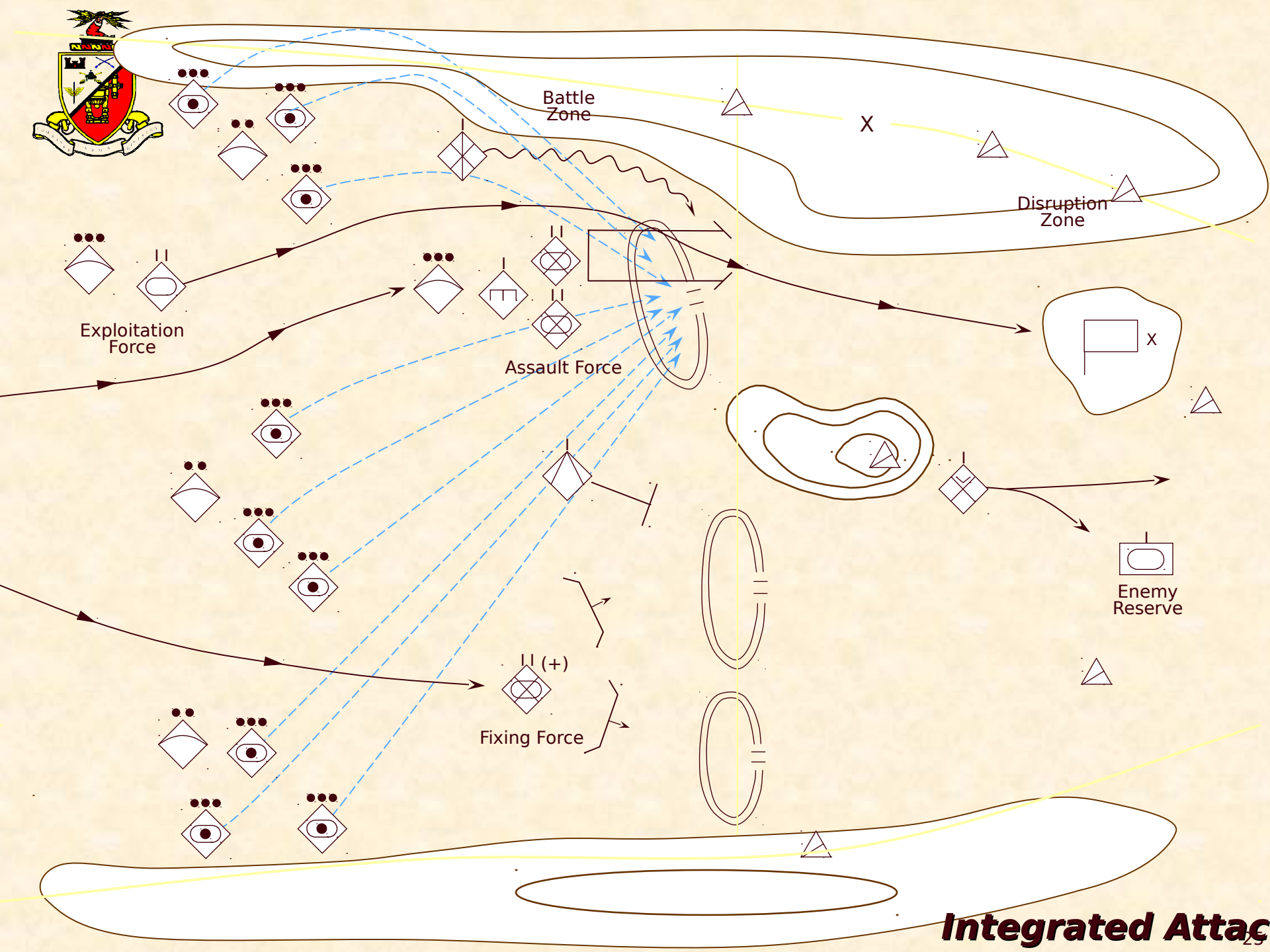
- ***Deception Force***
- ***Disruption Force***
- ***Reserve Forces***
- ***Security Force***

Offensive Actions

- ***Attack***
  - ***Integrated***
  - ***Dispersed***
- ***Limited-Objective Attack***
  - ***Sophisticated Ambush***
  - ***Spoiling Attack***
  - ***Counterattack***
  - ***Raid***
- ***Strike***

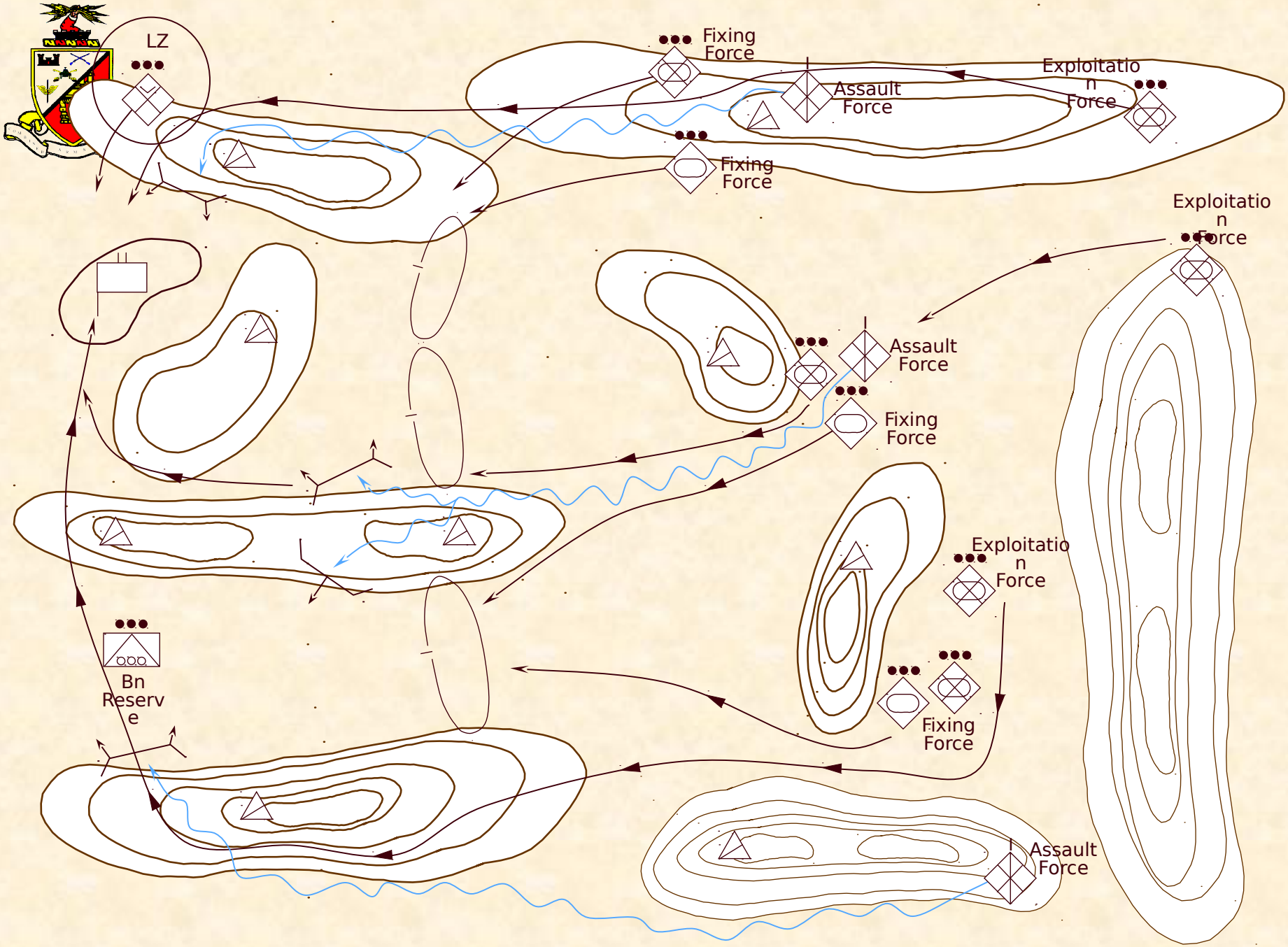
Offensive Courses of Action

- ***Integrated Attack***
  - ***Fixes and isolates enemy combat power in order to destroy his C2 and logistics structure to force an operational decision.***


Battle Zone
X
Disruption Zone
Exploitation Force
Assault Force
X
Enemy Reserve
(+)
Fixing Force

Offensive Courses of Action

- ***Dispersed Attack***
  - ***Uses a window of opportunity and dispersed operations to fix and isolate enemy combat power in order to destroy his C2 and logistics structure to force an operational decision.***



Dispersed Attac

Offensive Courses of Action

- ***Sophisticated Ambush***
  - ***The linking in time and task of RISTA, strike asset(s) and window of opportunity to destroy key enemy systems.***

  Example:
  - ***AS DARKNESS APPROACHES, BLUEFOR FIREFINDER RADAR DETECTS OPFOR LONG RANGE MRL PLATOON FIRING***

  - ***DURING HOURS OF DARKNESS BLUEFOR LAUNCHES AH-64 MISSION AGAINST LAST KNOWN OPFOR MRL POSITION***

  - ***MRLs ARE LONG GONE, WHILE AIR DEFENSE AMBUSH REMAINS***

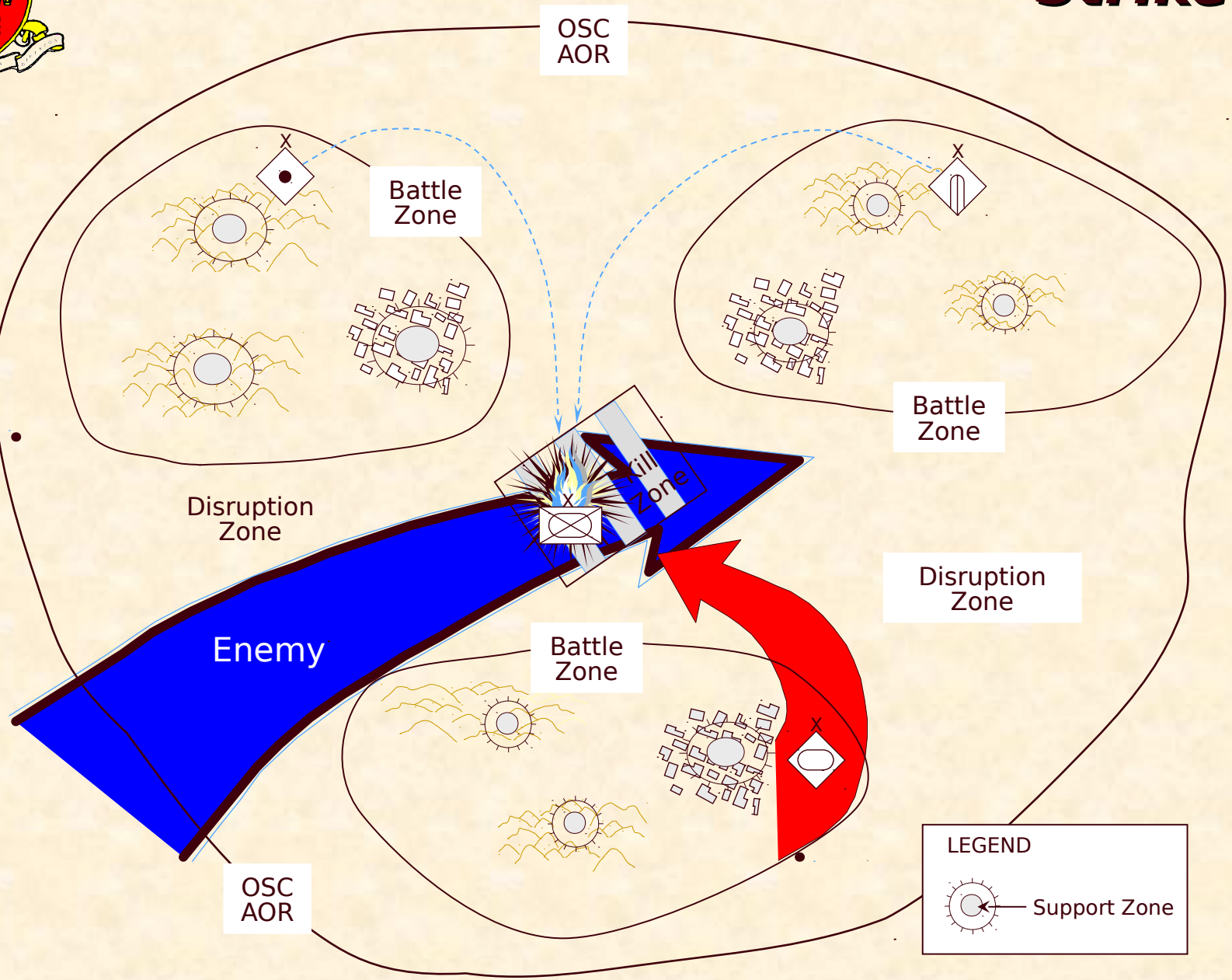
Offensive Courses of Action

- ***Spoiling Attack***
  - ***An attack designed to disrupt the enemy's preparations and control the tempo of operations.***
- ***Counterattack***
  - ***An attack designed to culminate the enemy's operation and seize the initiative.***
- ***Raid***
  - ***An offensive operation designed to deny the enemy freedom of movement and permit him no sanctuary.***
  - ***Typically targeting a stationary element.***

Offensive Courses of Action

- ***Strike***
  - ***An attack designed to destroy an enemy force through the synergistic combination of precision fires and ground maneuver.***

Strike


OSC
AOR
Battle
Zone
Battle
Zone
Disruption
Zone
Kill
Zone
Disruption
Zone
Enemy
Battle
Zone
OSC
AOR
LEGEND
Support Zone

OPFOR
Types of
Defensive Action

Defensive Forces

- *Disruption Force*
- *Main Defense Force*
  - *Contact Force*
  - *Shielding Force*
- *Protected Force*

- *Deception Force*
- *Reserve Forces*
- *Security Force*

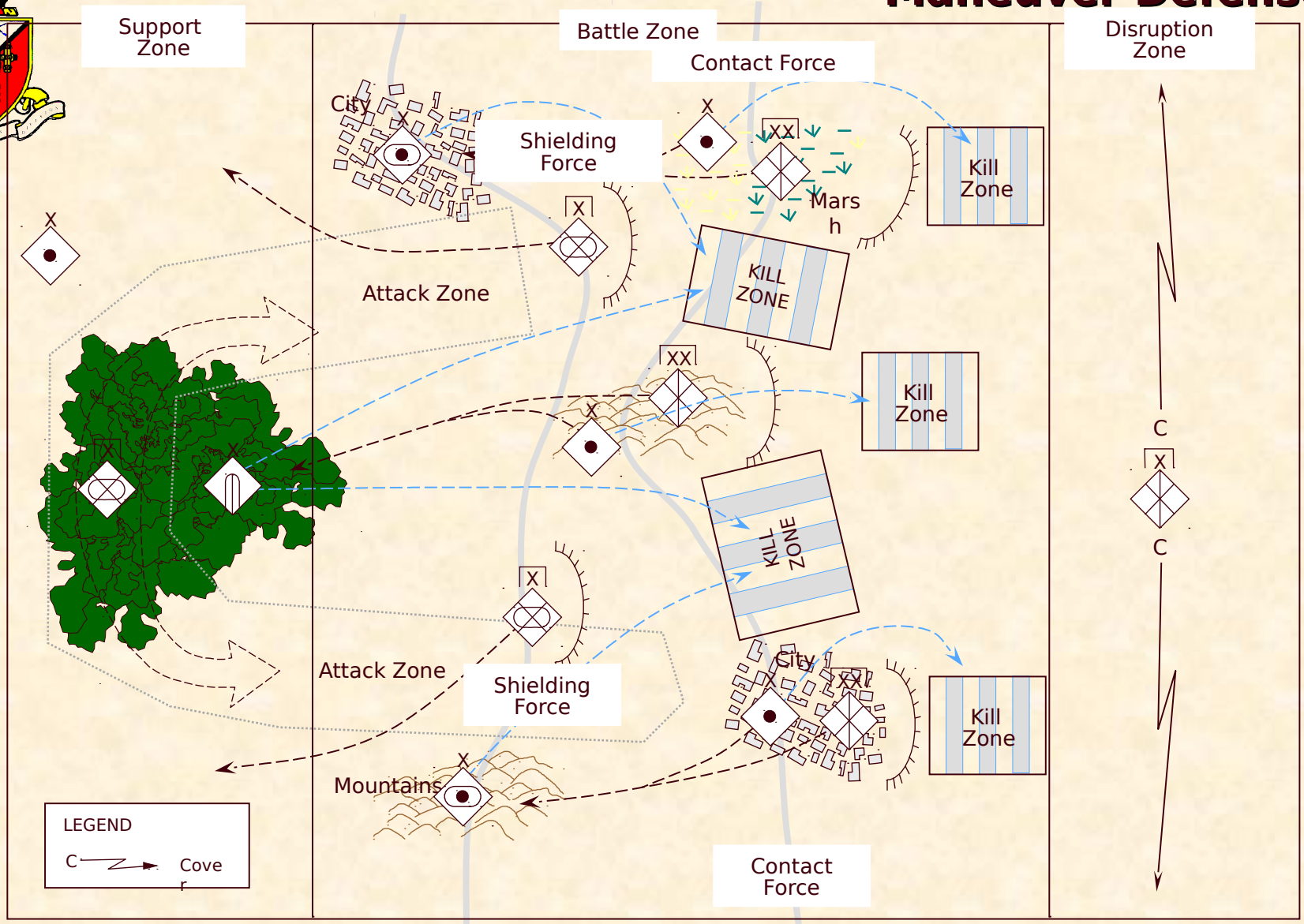
Defensive Courses of Action

- ***Maneuver Defense***
- ***Area Defense***
  - ***Integrated***
  - ***Decentralized***
- ***Cover***
- ***Delay***

Defensive Courses of Action

- ***Maneuver Defense***
  - ***Fixes and isolates enemy combat power in order to destroy his C2 and logistics structure to achieve operational decision.***

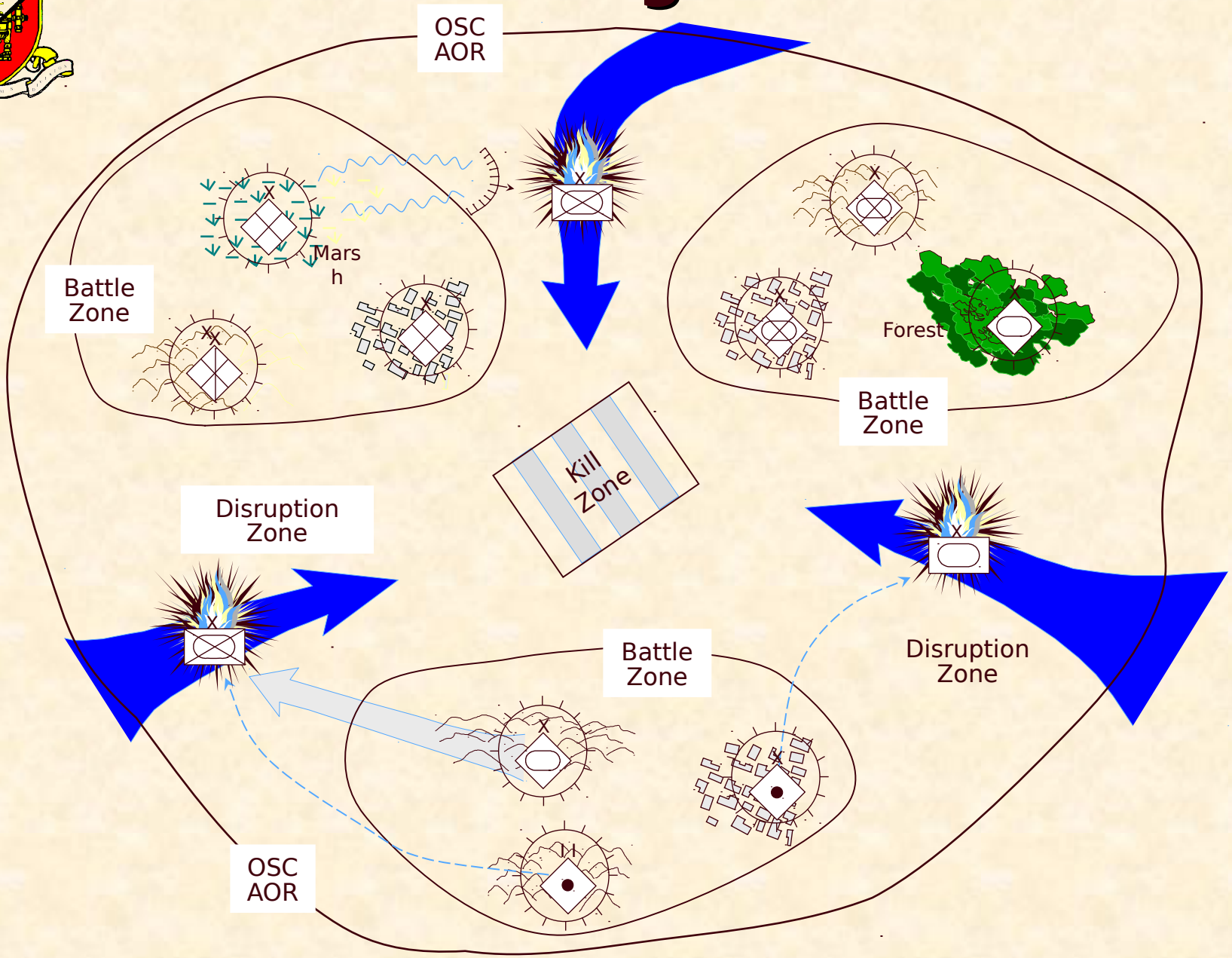
Maneuver Defense



Defensive Courses of Action

- ***Integrated Area Defense***
  - ***Preserves combat power while attacking the enemy's will and capability to fight and providing time for the OPFOR NCA to attack the enemy's strategic center of gravity.***

Integrated Area Defens



Defensive Courses of Action

- ***Decentralized Area Defense***

  - Preserves combat power and provides time for the OPFOR NCA to attack the enemy's strategic center of gravity

  - Decentralized defenses must be undertaken when outside intervention was unanticipated or materialized more quickly than OPFOR anticipated

  - These defenses are hasty in the sense they stem from a rapid transition from Conventional Operations to Adaptive Operations

  - Least desirable option for OPFOR and reflects the worst case

Defensive Courses of Action

- ***Cover***
  - ***Protects another OPFOR force from attack.***
- ***Delay***
  - ***Provides time for another OPFOR force to prepare and execute an operation.***

OPFOR FIRE SUPPORT

INTEGRATED FIRES COMMAND APPROACH TO COMBAT

SYSTEMS APPROACH TO COMBAT

Subsystems or Components of a Combat System Are Targeted and Destroyed Individually

A Combat System Is Defined As the Combination of Weapons Systems; Organizations; Logistics; C2; And Reconnaissance, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Target Acquisition (RISTA) That Are Integrated and Regulated by Interaction or Interdependence to Achieve a Military Function

A Combat System Consists of the Following Components:

- Combat Forces.
- Combat Support Forces.
- Logistics Forces.
- C2 and Rista.

INTEGRATED FIRES COMMAND

OPFOR Artillery Is Trained and Equipped to Mass Fires Without Massing Systems

OPFOR Artillery Has the Capability to Use Artillery Delivered High Precision Munitions (ADHPM) and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)

Focus of OPFOR Artillery Effort Is on the Destruction of Key Enemy Weapon Systems, C2 Nodes, Logistics Centers and Vulnerable Troop Concentrations

Focus of OPFOR Artillery Is NOT on High-volume Suppression Missions or Counterfire Vs. Non-precision Systems

Maximum Effort Will Be Made to Protect OPFOR Artillery Systems Capable of Precision Strike

METHODS OF FIRE
(1 of 2)

INDIRECT FIRE SUPPORT TO A STRIKE (IFC)

- **Used to destroy an enemy formation after setting the conditions for its destruction.**

RECONNAISSANCE FIRE (IFC)

- **Detects, identifies, and destroys critical targets in minutes.**
- **Designed to attack and destroy key enemy capabilities and set the conditions for a strike.**

CLOSE SUPPORT FIRE

- **Used to support maneuver forces and attack targets of immediate concern.**

METHODS OF FIRE
(2 of 2)

INTERDICTION FIRE (IFC)

Used to prevent enemy follow-on or reserve forces from reinforcing or influencing a battle or situation

COUNTERFIRE (ANY)

Designed to destroy the enemy fire support infrastructure throughout the battlefield.

COUNTERBATTERY FIRE (ANY)

Used for the annihilation or neutralization of enemy artillery batteries.

FINAL PROTECTIVE FIRE

Immediately available preplanned barrier of indirect and direct fire designed to prevent an advancing enemy from penetrating a defensive position.

FIRE SUPPORT TACTICS

- ***SHOOT AND MOVE***
  - ***Displace Quickly***
  - ***Arty Sniper/Autonomous Weapon***
- ***FIRE FROM FIXED LOCATIONS***
  - ***Hardened Positions***
  - ***Concealed Positions***
- ***DISPERSED LOCATIONS***
  - ***500m – 2000m Dist Between Btrys in a Bn***
  - ***50m+m Between Systems***
  - ***Split Batteries***
- ***FIRE AND DECOY***
  - ***Roving gun/unit***
  - ***Deception battery***

MANEUVER OPERATIONS

RECONNAISSANCE

- **Ground Reconnaissance Is the Primary Source of Intel for the Enemy**

- **Reconnaissance Is a Mission Not a Force or Unit**
  - **Reconnaissance Detachment (RD)**
    - **Largest Organization the OPFOR Employs at the TacticaL Level to Supplement Specialized Reconnaissance Units**
    - **Task Organized Company or Battalion**
    - **Often Receives Tanks (If It Is Not a Tank Unit), Air Defense, Artillery, Engineers, or NBC Specialists.**

- **OPFOR Commanders Will Commit All Necessary Combat Power to Having 'Eyes On' Critical Targets**

- **Affiliated Forces and Friendly Civilians Are a Key Element of the OPFOR Reconnaissance Effort**

INFANTRY/ANTI-TANK /ARMOR

- COE OPFOR Organizations Are Equipped With 2-3 Times the Number of Antitank Systems Possessed by Previous OPFOR
- OPFOR Infantry Considered Primary Tank Killer
- Armor is Primarily Used as the Exploitation Force

SUMMARY OF DIFFERENCES

- **OSC Structure**
- **Objectives (Destroy Key Systems, Cause Casualties)**
- **Isolate Combat Power- Strike C2/Log**
- **Use of Infantry and AT**
- **Affiliated Forces, Situational Organization**
- **Fire Support/Strike System**
  - **Dispersed Artillery, Massed Effects**
  - **All Asset Integration**
  - **PGM**
- **Disruption Zone**
  - **Strike, Opportunity and Security**
  - **RISTA, Kill Zones, Counter-Recon, Ambush**

OBJECTIVES

WILL

- Destroy Key Systems
- Eliminate Resolve
- Render Enemy Combat Power Irrelevant
- Preserve Own Combat Power

WILL NOT

- Will not focus on destruction of enemy maneuver
- Will not try to overwhelm with echelons
- Will not attack from march to timetable
- Will not rely on use of massed artillery

KEYS TO DEFEATING THE OPFOR

ACCORDING TO THE WCOPFOR

- Prevent All-BOS Deception
- Identify and Avoid Kill Zones
- Isolate Support Zones From Battle Zones
- Deny Use of Complex Terrain
- Desynchronize Dispersed Operations
- Destroy Ground Reconnaissance
- Destroy Anti-Tank Assets
- Aggressive Force Protection/Security Operations
- Take Advantage of Relative Advantage in Limited Visibility
- Focus Deception to Convince the Enemy to Risk Revealing Reserves and Counterattack Forces

QUESTIONS?